



**DIVISION OF MINES
BOARD OF COAL MINING EXAMINERS
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

SURFACE FOREMAN

Article 3 of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia establishes requirements for certification of coal mine workers. The certification requirements are included in §45.1-161.24 through §45.1-161.41 in which the Board of Coal Mining Examiners is established for the purpose of administering the certification program. The Board has promulgated certification regulations 4 VAC 25-20, which set the minimum standards and procedures required for Virginia coal miner examinations and certifications.

CERTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION: **Surface Foreman*

This certification authorizes the holder to:

- Perform all surface mine foreman and/or examiner duties required by State and Federal Laws and Code
- Record the findings of on-shift examinations

NOTE:

- This certification may be used at Prep Plants, Dock Facilities and Surface Facilities (labs, shops, warehouses)
- **This certification meets requirement for General Miner.**

APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Application (BCME-1) and \$10.00 fee 5 working days prior to examination
- Five years of surface coal mining experience
- Current first aid training (MSHA first aid 5000-23 acceptable)

EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS: A score of 85% on each element of the examination

<u>ELEMENTS OF EXAM</u>	<u>NUMBER OF QUESTIONS</u>
▪ Electrical & Equipment (EE)	20
▪ Explosives (EX)	20
▪ First Aid (FA)	20
▪ Mine Foremanship (MF)	20
▪ General Mine Practices (MP)	50
▪ Federal Regulations (FR)	20
▪ Virginia Coal Surface Mining Reclamation Regulations (RL)	20
▪ Gas Detection - practical demonstration	
▪ Records - Preshift/Onshift (PO)	
▪ Ground Control/Red Zone Practical	

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:

- Title 30 CFR Parts 48, 51, 77
- Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia
- BCME Requirements
- VA Ground Control Plan/Red Zones
- Surface Foreman Guide & Surface Rules & Regs.
- First Aid for Miners Study Guide
- Mine Gases Packet
- VA Coal Surface Mining Reclamation Regs. - DMLR

The above mentioned study materials are available at the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Big Stone Gap Office, Customer Assistance Center (276) 523-8233 and Keen Mountain Field Office (276) 498-4533.

***4 hours biannual continuing education required to update certification.**

Revised 03/10/06